

Court Power Shifts

Read how four Supreme Court decisions changed power in the early republic.

SS.8.A.4.13 "Explain the consequences of landmark Supreme Court decisions (McCulloch v. Maryland [1819], Gibbons v. Ogden [1824], Cherokee Nation v. Georgia [1831], and Worcester v. Georgia [1832]) significant to this era of American history."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each case name. Circle each sentence that begins **Consequence:**, then write F beside consequences about federal authority or T beside consequences about tribal rights.

Four Decisions, Lasting Effects

- ① In 1819, McCulloch v. Maryland began with Maryland's tax on the Bank of the United States. The Court said Congress could create the bank under its implied powers, and Maryland could not tax it. **Consequence:** Federal laws and institutions received stronger protection from state interference. In 1824, Gibbons v. Ogden challenged a New York steamboat monopoly. The Court ruled that Congress, not one state, could regulate interstate commerce, including navigation between states. **Consequence:** National authority over trade crossing state borders grew.
- ② In 1831, Cherokee Nation v. Georgia arose after Georgia tried to extend its laws over Cherokee lands. The Cherokee Nation asked the Supreme Court to stop the state. The Court called the Cherokee a "domestic dependent nation," rather than a foreign nation, and dismissed the case because it lacked original jurisdiction. **Consequence:** The Cherokee could not use this case to obtain the Court's direct protection against Georgia's actions. The ruling left Georgia's pressure on Cherokee land largely unchecked in Georgia.
- ③ In 1832, Worcester v. Georgia concerned Samuel Worcester, a missionary convicted under a Georgia law for living in Cherokee territory without a state license. The Court ruled that Georgia's laws had no force in Cherokee territory because dealings with tribes belonged to the federal government. **Consequence:** The decision affirmed tribal self-government and limited state power on Cherokee land. Georgia refused to release Worcester at first, and President Andrew Jackson did not force the state to follow the ruling. Removal policies continued, leading toward the Trail of Tears.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did the Court say Maryland could not do in *McCulloch v. Maryland*? What larger consequence did this have?

2 How did *Gibbons v. Ogden* change authority over trade that crossed state borders?

3 Why did the Court dismiss *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia*, and what consequence did that have for the Cherokee?

4 What did *Worcester v. Georgia* say about Georgia's laws in Cherokee territory? Why did the decision not stop removal policies?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly 4 sentences comparing one decision about federal and state power with *Worcester v. Georgia*. State a consequence of each decision, then explain why *Worcester*'s legal ruling had a different practical effect.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each case name. Circle each sentence that begins **Consequence:**, then write F beside consequences about federal authority or T beside consequences about tribal rights. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did the Court say Maryland could not do in <i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i> ? What larger consequence did this have?	Maryland could not tax the Bank of the United States. Federal laws and institutions gained stronger protection from state interference.
2	How did <i>Gibbons v. Ogden</i> change authority over trade that crossed state borders?	It gave Congress, rather than an individual state, authority to regulate interstate commerce, including navigation between states.
3	Why did the Court dismiss <i>Cherokee Nation v. Georgia</i> , and what consequence did that have for the Cherokee?	The Court said the Cherokee were a domestic dependent nation, not a foreign nation, so it lacked original jurisdiction. The Cherokee could not get the Court's direct protection against Georgia's actions through this case.
4	What did <i>Worcester v. Georgia</i> say about Georgia's laws in Cherokee territory? Why did the decision not stop removal policies?	The Court said Georgia's laws had no force in Cherokee territory. Georgia resisted the ruling, President Jackson did not force compliance, and removal policies continued.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

McCulloch v. Maryland strengthened federal power by preventing a state from taxing the national bank. *Worcester v. Georgia* stated that Georgia could not apply its laws in Cherokee territory and supported tribal self-government. Both decisions limited state power, but *Worcester* had a weaker practical result because Georgia resisted it and the president did not enforce it. As removal continued, the Court's legal protection did not stop the Cherokee from losing their land.

Accept accurate paraphrases that connect each ruling to its consequence. For the marking task, the four sentences beginning with "Consequence:" should be circled, with F on the first two and T on the last two.